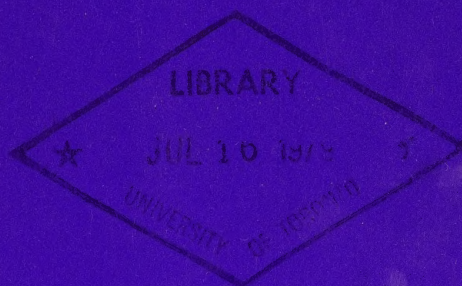


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# The Canada Council



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# The Canada Council

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The Canada Council was established by Parliament in 1957 to promote the arts in Canada. It functions through a comprehensive program of financial assistance and special services offered both to individuals and to organizations. The Council also has some responsibility for promoting Canadian culture abroad, and provides the secretariat for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.\*

### *Organization*

The Council is headed by a 21-member board, appointed by the Government of Canada, which usually meets four times a year to set Council policies and make decisions within the terms of the Canada Council Act. Such policies and decisions are implemented by a staff headed by a Director and an Associate Director, both appointed by the Federal Government. The Council's head office is in Ottawa, and there are regional representatives in the Atlantic Provinces and the Prairie Provinces.

In the development and application of its policies and programs, the Council and its staff rely heavily on the advice and co-operation of artists and professionals concerned with the arts from all parts of Canada, who are consulted both individually and as members of juries, committees and advisory groups. The Council also works in close co-operation with federal and provincial cultural agencies and with the Cultural Af-

fairs Division of the Department of External Affairs.

The Council reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State, and is called from time to time before Parliamentary committees, particularly the House of Commons Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. Its accounts are examined by the Auditor General of Canada, who reports on them to Parliament.

### *Financial resources*

Annual grants from Parliament are the Council's main source of income. These grants are supplemented by income from a \$50-million endowment fund established by Parliament in 1957. The Council has also received substantial amounts in private donations and bequests, usually for specific purposes. For the fiscal year 1978-79, the Council has a budget of some \$49 million.

### *Aid to artists and arts organizations*

As a general rule, to qualify for Council assistance individual artists must have completed their fundamental training and have at least some claim to professional status. Assistance is available to such artists and to administrators, critics and other persons whose work affects

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\*Until March 31, 1978, the Council was also responsible for encouraging graduate studies and research in the humanities and social sciences. This part of its mandate has been transferred to a new organization, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

the arts, in the following forms: Arts Grants A, for senior artists; Arts Grants B, for artists meeting minimum requirements; and Short-Term, Project-Cost and Travel Grants, for both.

The Council's criteria for assisting performing companies, public art galleries and other arts organizations are professionalism and excellence, community acceptance, stability and sound financial management. In some cases, the Council may offer support to firmly-established amateur groups to enable them to acquire professional leadership or assistance for a specific project or to achieve professional status.

Some Council grants are for co-operative projects involving a practising artist and a sponsoring, or host, organization. In many cases, such projects are designed to raise the level of public interest and participation in the arts by providing opportunities for contact and interaction between the artist and members of the community.

#### *Creative writing and publishing*

The Council offers grants to writers of fiction, poetry and drama, subsidizes public readings by writers and supports professional writers' associations. It provides assistance to Canadian-owned publishing houses for the publication and translation of books and for promotional activities, supports literary and arts periodicals

and national publishers' associations, and buys Canadian books for free distribution in Canada and abroad.

#### *Dance*

Council assistance is open to all dance professionals and to companies specializing in classical, modern and experimental dance. There are special development grants for dance administrators and critics, and a guest-teachers' program for dance-schools and organizations located at some distance from major dance-centres.

#### *Music*

Grants are available to professionals in all types of music, and to groups and organizations such as orchestras, chamber-music groups, opera companies, and professional and amateur choirs (the latter to finance professional assistance). The Council also supports the commissioning and publication of works by Canadian composers and the recording of Canadian classical music. The Community Musicians' Program provides opportunities for professional musicians to direct or contribute to music-animation projects in communities where their services are needed.

#### *Theatre*

Grants are open to all professionals in theatre, mime and puppetry. Theatre companies seeking Council

assistance are required to have been in operation for at least a year (two in the case of companies performing for young audiences). The Council also provides funds to service organizations and supports special projects such as playwriting workshops.

#### *Visual arts, film and video*

Grants are given to architects, painters, sculptors, graphic artists, photographers, film-makers, video-workers and actors, as well as to professionals in related areas. Council support is also available to public art galleries, galleries operated by professional artists, print workshops and independent producers of both film and television.

#### *Art Bank*

Works of contemporary Canadian artists are bought by the Art Bank and rented to federal, provincial and municipal government departments and other organizations such as hospitals, mainly for display in public places. The Bank distributes slides and information about the artists and their work and lends items from its collection to public galleries in Canada and abroad.

#### *Touring Office*

The Touring Office encourages tours by Canadian performing artists and companies by means of subsidies, technical assistance and support services. It also promotes the training

and professional development of tour sponsors, commercial agents and impresarios. Among its publications are the *Touring Office Bulletin*, *Tour Organizers' Handbook*, *Sponsors' Handbook for Touring Attractions*, and *Touring Directory of the Performing Arts in Canada*.

#### *Exploration program*

Investigation of new forms of expression and participation in the arts, inquiry into aspects of Canada's cultural heritage, and promotion of public awareness and enjoyment of artistic and cultural activities are encouraged by the "Explorations" program, which is open to any person, group or organization - professional or non-professional - wishing to undertake a project or study. Applications are judged by five regional juries.

#### *Cultural exchanges*

A number of small programs financed by the Federal Government or external sources are administered by the Canada Council. They include grants to Canadian cultural organizations for visits to Canada by distinguished foreign artists, grants for young Canadian artists wishing to study music, ballet or theatre in the U.S.S.R., and provision of studio spaces for Canadian visual artists in Paris and New York.



### *Prizes and special awards*

The Council administers or finances the following awards:

The *Molson Prizes* are given for outstanding contributions to the arts, humanities and social sciences. Three prizes worth \$20,000 each are offered each year. Ranked among Canada's highest awards for cultural achievement, the Molson Prizes are financed from an endowment established by the Molson Foundation.

The *Governor General's Literary Awards* are given each year to the authors of three English-language and three French-language works by Canadians. Each winner receives \$5,000 from the Council.

*Children's Literature Prizes* worth \$5,000 each are given annually to authors and/or illustrators of two books for young people – one in English and one in French.

*Translation Prizes* worth \$5,000 each are offered annually for the best English-to-French and French-to-English translations of Canadian books.

The *Canada-Australia Literary Prize* of \$2,500, co-sponsored by the Canadian and Australian Governments, is awarded in alternate years to an English-speaking Canadian or Australian writer, on the basis of an estimate of his or her work as a whole.

The *\$2,500 Canada-Belgium Literary Prize*, co-sponsored by the Canadian and Belgian Governments, is made in alternate years to French-speaking Canadian or Belgian writers on the basis of an estimate of the writer's complete works.

The *National Competition for Young Composers* and the *National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs* are sponsored jointly by the Council and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (with assistance for the composers' competition from participating arts organizations) in alternate years. The prizes for composers are \$4,000 in each of three categories; the first prizes for choirs in each of seven categories are \$1,000.

The *Jules Leger Prize for New Chamber Music*, administered by the Canadian Music Council with financial support from the Canada Council, includes a trophy and a \$5,000 cash award. It is given annually for a new chamber-music composition scored for a group of from two to nine players.

The *Vincent Massey Awards for Excellence in the Urban Environment* are co-sponsored by the Canada Council, the Massey Foundation and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and are given every two to four years.




### *Killam program*

The Killam awards of the Canada Council are intended to support scholars of outstanding ability engaged in research projects of exceptional significance. These substantial awards have been made possible through a bequest of Mrs Dorothy J. Killam and a gift she made anonymously before her death. Three categories of award are offered: I.W. Killam Memorial Scholarships in Science, Engineering and Medicine; research fellowships; and research associateships in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine and engineering, and studies linking disciplines in these fields.

### *Canadian Commission for UNESCO*

The Canada Council provides the budget and secretariat for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which provides non-political liaison between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Canadian public and private bodies concerned with education, science, culture and communications. The Commission also carries out a domestic program to further UNESCO's aims and co-operates with Canadian organizations in activities directed to the same ends. It operates the Canadian Communications Research Information Centre, a national clearing-house of information on communications policy, research, resources and activities. The

Commission also administers the Canada Council's Grants for International Representation, awarded for travel purposes to Canadians serving as senior officers or board members of international non-governmental organizations in the arts, humanities and social sciences.



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